



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association

Founded In 1857

February 8, 2009

Testimony IN SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS

by Dr. Maxwell Cooper, Director, HRA

Before the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

February 9, 2009, 9am, Rm 325

One copy requested.

Honorable Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, Members,

HRA is happy to support this bill and be party to DLNR's Recreational Renaissance.

We are particularly pleased that the plans include two new much needed shooting ranges where there are none presently, one in West Hawaii, and another on Kauai. The recently completed 2008 SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) survey of recreational habits in Hawaii, required for the state to receive federal grants, showed that of the respondents, 25% shoot pistol or rifle, 15% archery, and indicated more ranges are needed.

We note with satisfaction that tax monies are not to be used for the Renaissance program. Hawaii hunters and shooters already pay "user fees" in terms of a 10% federal excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. These funds are returned to the State under the Pittman-Roberson program and DLNR administers them, earmarked for improvement in multiple use habitat and range development. Our understanding is that the Renaissance program plan is to use these particular monies toward the long-term annual costs of maintaining the planned shooting ranges. We respectfully request that P-R funds be incorporated specifically into Section 2 of this bill as a source of maintenance funding for shooting ranges.

We respectfully request that Section 10 of this bill specifically include reference to the two proposed range sites, one on the Island of Hawaii, the other on Kauai.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HRA.

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